AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (Allowed) A method of delivering progesterone to a female patient, comprising placing in the vagina of said patient a tablet comprising micronized progesterone, a non-effervescent excipient or diluent, and an effervescent, and retaining said tablet in said vagina for a time efficacious to deliver said progesterone to said patient.

53. (Allowed) A method according to claim 52, wherein said tablet contains at least 50 mg of micronized progesterone.

54. Allowed) A method according to claim 53, wherein said placing of tablet is effected as part of a twice-daily dosing regimen.

55-103 (Canceled)

104. (Allowed) A method of delivering progesterone to a female patient, comprising placing in the vagina of said patient a tablet wherein said tablet is prepared by the steps of:

(i) preparing a mixture consisting of water and micronized progesterone to obtain wetted micronized progesterone; and

drying said wetted micronized progesterone to obtain dry micronized progesterone;

(ii) mixing said micronized progesterone with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent to form a second mixture; and

(iii) forming a tablet by direct compaction of said second mixture said tablet having a T_{max} upon disintegration of at least about three hours;

and retaining said tablet in said vagina for a time efficacious to deliver said progesterone to said patient.

105. (Allowed) A method according to claim 104, wherein said tablet contains at least 50 mg of micronized progesterone.

106. (Allowed) A method of delivering progesterone to a female patient, comprising placing in the vagina of said patient a tablet wherein said tablet is prepared by the steps of:

(i) mixing water with micronized progesterone to obtain wetted micronized progesterone in the absence of a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent; and

drying said wetted micronized progesterone to form dry micronized progesterone;

(ii) mixing said dry micronized progesterone with

(a) a pharmaceutically acceptable non effervescent excipient or diluent and

(b) an effervescent to form a mixture; and

(iii) forming a tablet by direct compaction of said mixture,

the tablet having a T_{max} upon disintegration of at least about three hours;

and retaining said tablet in said vagina for a time efficacious to deliver said progesterone to said patient.

107. (Allowed) A method according to claim 106, wherein said tablet contains at least 50 mg of micronized progesterone.

108. (Allowed) A method according to claim 106, wherein said placing of tablet is effected as part of a twice daily dosing regimen.

109-112 (Canceled)